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A Loyal Welcome to their Majesties!

By the time these lines are in print we shall have our King and Queen among us once more, after an absence of very nearly three months. They deserve all the welcome we can give them, for though their Imperial tour has afforded them the greatest pleasure, it has also meant unceasing work. Fortunately for the nation, their Majesties are blessed with health and strength, and never appear fatigued by programmes which would tire out the majority of their subjects.

They return happy in the knowledge that they have won loyalty and devotion from thousands of their Eastern subjects, and that their tour throughout has been an unqualified success.

The only unpleasant experience was the extremely boisterous passage through the Bay on the outward voyage, an experience which fortunately was not repeated on the return journey.

A Real Loss.

There could not fail to be a note of sadness in their Majesties' welcome home, for the Duke of Fife is most truly mourned by all his Royal relatives. His was a difficult position, involving a certain amount of self-sacrifice, amply atoned for by the devotion of his wife, the Princess Royal, and their two daughters. The Duke more than once refused the Governor-Generalship of an important portion of the Empire because the Princess did not feel herself equal to the task of entertaining. She has, as is well known, a horror of finding herself in any position of prominence.

Queen Alexandra feels the loss of her son-in-law most acutely. He had been a habitué of Sandringham and Marlborough House for some years before his marriage of the eldest daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales. His Royal father-in-law had a great opinion of his judgment, and to Queen Alexandra, since her widowhood especially, he has been the greatest support.

Court mourning has been ordered for five weeks for the Duke of Fife, and will be observed in circles outside the actual Court. It is expected that the funeral will take place next week at Duff House.

Meetings and Greetings.

Mr. Asquith returned from Sicily in time to welcome their Majesties on their arrival in London. Mr. Winston Churchill, as the First Lord, had already paid his respects at Portsmouth, and travelled up to London in the Royal train; another Minister also to be seen was Lord Crewe, looking all the better for his three

A Politician at Play.

Mr. Balfour is said by those who have seen him at Cannes to be looking better than he has for years, and to be in excellent spirits. He has been much enjoying his golf on the first-class links there, and indeed the Cannes Golf Club is in every way one of the most luxurious and well-managed clubs in Europe. The Grand Duke Michael, to whose initiative it was originally largely due, takes a very active and personal part in its affairs, and during the last month a great many members have been seen there. Though Mr. Balfour has greatly enjoyed his rest from politics, and has, as he says, at last found time to do a great deal of the desultory reading—as well as more serious philosophical work—in which his soul delighteth, we have by no means lost the prospect of his presence in the House of Commons. His spurs were first won as a free lance. Once again, after a score and more of years in harness, he will now be free to devote the whole of his brilliant powers to debate, and he intends to take an active part in the Home Rule discussions in the House of Commons. No man in the country knows the subject better, and none so well can make use of the knowledge he possesses. Mr. Balfour will not probably be in the House at the very beginning of the session, but he is returning to Carlton Gardens in a few weeks' time, and when there will make a vast difference, not only to the Parliamentary world, but also, socially, to that interesting and intellectual section of London Society which is wont to assemble in his house.

Main's Matrimonial

Among recent engagements that of Mr. Roger Kynaston, of Hardwicke, to Miss Williams-Wynn, elder daughter of Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, has caused great interest in the pleasant neighbourhood where Wales and Shropshire join. Both come of well-known

families. Mr. Kynaston succeeded his father about ten years ago, and his property lies only a few miles from Wynnstay. Sir Watkin's only son celebrated his majority only a few weeks ago, when there was a big gathering at Wynnstay.

Miss Worsley, the eldest daughter of Sir William and Lady Worsley, of Hovingham, Hull, Yorkshire, is engaged to Mr. Pemberton.



THE FINEST PIECE OF ICE IN LONDON

The ground of the Archery Club at the Botanical Gardens was flocked when the frost began, and one of the finest pieces of ice in London was open to the public. Amongst the first arrivals were the children of the Duke and Duchess of Teck. Our picture shows Princess May of Teck, with "Midget" (left), and Princess Eleanor of Teck, with "Dot" (right).

months' sojourn abroad. Lady Crewe was on the platform to greet him, and so was pretty little Lady Charles Fitzmaurice to greet her husband and her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Devonshire. The Duke of Devonshire and Lord Lansdowne were also there to welcome her Grace, and Lady Grosvenor, Mr. George Wyndham, and Lord and Lady Beauchamp were among others to be seen.

GOWNS AND GOSSIP: THE LAND OF BLUE SKIES

"Lydia Lovelace" will reply to any correspondents who wish her advice on matters of dress. (Answers to Correspondents appear at the end of the paper on page 692.)

MY Best Friend,—Your letter, telling me of an immediate migration Southward, has filled me with most wicked inclinations. I feel that whatever else has to be foregone, a sight of blue skies must be mine! The deluge we have endured has shaken my admiration for our island home to its very foundations. Joan says that she feels like a "damped-off" geranium cutting. I notice, however, that she is going to Nice almost immediately, so that her brain and determination are not mildewed so very seriously after all.

There is no need to be depressed about your clothes. You always look very nice in my humble opinion, and the idea that the Riviera demands a complete trousseau is quite without foundation. I will try and give you an outline of what is required, and you must fill in all the details according to your own inclinations.

Naturally, everything depends upon one's position in Society and the means at disposal. One rich young bride of my acquaintance, who will be installed in a very smart villa, with relatives in various other lovely houses near by, has taken her trousseau, but then that is quite necessary in her case. She will entertain and be entertained, and will be in the very heat of the battle, so to speak. You will go out a good deal, but not to the same extent, though your life is entirely different and far more interesting. Your dear old cousins, who live quietly in a

somewhat dull hotel at Bordighiera, probably think your toilets unnecessary and exaggerated, so you see that it is impossible to give a complete list of clothing that will suit any and every person and condition.

The first illusion that has to be destroyed is that the Riviera is always a place of blue skies and hot sunshine. Many a day I have been glad of a really warm suit, and have pitied those misguided people who have brought only the thinnest toilets. Just now, fur coats and the long and wide fur stoles are worn; yet, of course, as the days lengthen out they will be discarded for thinner garments and less wintry necessities. Then, too, motor-ing has altered everything, and it is folly to go without a comfortable coat that will do for the crossing, the journey, and for the innumerable expeditions that are made. The closed car is used a great deal owing to the white dust, but still there are many people who take down an open car for driving in the country.

In the morning tailor-mades are always worn; serge, *ratine*, or fine tweed serving equally well, and it is pleasant to be provided with both dark and light suits, so as to be ready for all weathers. Some of the new suits are made of *Velours de laine*, smooth, soft, and silky; others are of ribbed fine Cheviot; but coarse ribbing, as I have said, is seldom becoming to large figures.

Most people walk about early in the day in plain tailor-mades, changing into smarter clothes for the luncheon hour, or for the luncheon parties that are so popular. Others wear a smart *costume tailleur*, and keep it on for ordinary occasions; and since many suits are so very attractive, this can be done without the danger of being "out of it."

For example, I have just seen a soft blue *Velours de laine*, with corselet skirt wrapping over to the left side, and a smart coat with rounded corners and a *Directoire* revers. When the coat is removed the blouse is found to be an adroit blending of black and blue ninon, with a touch of rose red and blue macramé lace. The hat—a queer blue velvet shape—is worn with a lace veil, and the *ensemble* is excellent. A second blouse of satin may be ordered to wear with a soft crinkled jabot of lace. Then, again, a very attractive wine-coloured cloth suit, a purple kind of tone, has a cut-away coat and a collar of black satin. Here the skirt is made with a deep hem, stitched, and the blouse of soft satin has sleeves and upper portion of Eastern-blue ninon. But for simpler folk, the same thing can be bought in less elaborate guise. For example, Joan's bright blue *ratine* is very smart, and the blouse of tucked ninon, with rose-coloured satin buttons and a little strip of rose-coloured embroidery laid upon the blue chemisette, will hold its own with any expensive confection.

For the smart luncheons that are given so constantly the complete dress and attendant coat is invaluable. A mole velveteen, with Kimono-cut sleeves and the simplest of skirts, is enlivened by a touch of shadow lace and a bright strip of embroidery, and the coat, braided or



AN AFTERNOON GOWN



A PRETTY GOWN FOR FINE DAYS

plain, or made with revers of satin, is accompanied by a stole and muff of fur.

Many women, however, prefer a soft satin gown, a cashmere de soie, or a combination of ninon and satin at luncheon time, and they will wear with it either a long fur coat, or one of velvet or velveteen.

For the warmer days, the French houses are making coats and skirts, and gowns and long coats of taffetas, plain, coloured, striped, and shot. Taffetas has much in its favour, and is to be considered seriously as one of the coming permanent fashions. However dressed for lunch and for tea, for afternoon visits to the casinos, etc., the visitor must have something that looks smart when the coat is removed.

Ideas as regards evening dress are changing. Only a few years ago a low dress was not at all the thing to wear, whereas now many of the dinner gowns are cut square or V-shaped, and are worn with hat, toque or turban. Smart evening gowns of ninon, lace, satin, *chiffon broché* are all suitable, and the collarless semi-transparent gown is one of the prettiest garments in the world. It will be a thousand pities if it is ever given up for Casino and restaurant wear. Satin gowns, with tunics or draperies of lace and ninon, or the ninon with patterning of *Velours Ciselé*, are amongst the gowns ordered for great dames, and are invariably taken out to Nice and to Monte Carlo.